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From: Ingram, Campbell@SSJDC
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 10:57 AM
To: 'sri.ramesh@asm.ca.gov'
Cc: 'Leahy, Tina'; Azimi-Gaylon, Shakoora@SSJDC
Subject: Comments on Proposed Principles for Developing a Water Bond

Dear Sri,

I very much appreciated seeing the summary of comments to date on the proposed Principles, in part as a helpful reminder that I wanted to provide the following on behalf of the Delta Conservancy. In general, I believe the principles are appropriate and commend the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee for its leadership on the bond issue. As I am sure you are aware, the Delta Conservancy was created as part of the 2009 Delta Reform Act and anticipated funding through the Water Bond. While we have done a commendable job of realizing outside funding for priority efforts, we lack the funding required to make significant progress toward our top mandates: to preserve and protect agricultural lands and working landscapes, to increase opportunities for recreation and tourism, and to conduct ecosystem restoration. Working with the Delta community we have developed a strategic plan and an annual implementation plan which can be found at the link to our website below .

My comment relates to Chapter 7, Delta Sustainability, of the existing bond language. While the intent may be that the concepts and funding categories included in this chapter are covered in the first Principle, 1), a. Protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, it is my view that Delta sustainability should be more explicitly recognized in the Principles. The approval of the Delta Plan and ongoing restoration associated with the Biological Opinions, will have profound effects on the sustainability of the Delta. The potential of the BDCP and the astonishing disparity between the level of funding that has gone into planning vs. that which has been available to for Delta sustainability projects (notwithstanding the ongoing levee subventions funding) has resulted in an expectation of abandonment within the Delta community. Explicitly recognizing the imperative need to support the Delta as place in the Principles will help create a better sense of inclusion, and support of the Delta community.

Lastly, the Delta Conservancy strongly supports Principle 2) a. – g., and stands ready as a lead agency for ecosystem restoration and economic development to assist with the necessary coordination and integration to ensure accountability and transparency.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.
Campbell

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"A partner for balanced ecosystem restoration and economic development in the Delta."

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